

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

10 19. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container which contains a plurality of sealed packages, each of the sealed packages comprising

(a) a sealed polymeric bag, and

(b) within the sealed polymeric bag, (i) 16-22 kg of bananas and (ii) a packaging atmosphere around the bananas which is substantially constant, which is as a temperature less than 18°C, and which comprises 1.5 to 6% O₂, less than 15% CO₂, the total quantity of O₂ and CO₂ being less than 16%, and exogenous ethylene or the residue of exogenous ethylene;

the sealed polymeric bag

(a) having an O₂ permeability at 13 °C. per kg of bananas in the package (OP13/kg), of at least 1500 700 ml/atm.24 hrs, an ethylene permeability at 13°C per kg of bananas (EtP13/kg) which is at least 2 times of the OP13/kg, and an R ratio at 13 °C of at least 3; and

(b) Including at least one atmosphere control member which (i) provides a pathway for O₂, CO₂ and ethylene to enter or leave the packaging atmosphere, and (ii) comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film.

20. (Canceled)

30 21. (Currently amended) A sealed package comprising

(a) a sealed polymeric bag, and

(b) within the sealed polymeric bag, (i) bananas, and (ii) a packaging atmosphere around the bananas which is substantially constant and which comprises 1.5 to 6% O₂, less than 15% CO₂, the total quantity of O₂ and CO₂ being less than 16%, and exogenous ethylene or a residue of exogenous ethylene;

the sealed polymeric bag comprising at least one atmosphere control member which (i) provides a pathway for O₂, CO₂ and ethylene to enter or leave the packaging atmosphere, and (ii) comprises a microporous polymeric film and a polymeric coating on the microporous film; and

the sealed polymeric bag having an O₂ permeability at 13 °C. per kg of bananas in the package (OP13/kg), of at least 1500 700 ml/atm.24 hrs. an ethylene permeability at 13°C per kg of bananas (EtP13/kg) which is at least 2 times of the OP13/kg, and an R ratio at 13 °C of at least 2.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 19 wherein the bananas and the packaging atmosphere are the sole contents of each of the sealed bags.

24. (Previously presented) A package according to claim 21 wherein the bananas and the packaging atmosphere are the sole contents of the sealed bag.

25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 19 wherein the sealed polymeric bag has an EtP13/kg (~~EtP13/kg~~) which is at least 3 times the OP13/kg.

30. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 19 wherein the bananas have passed the peak of their climacteric.

31. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 19
5 28 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 16°C.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A package according to claim 21 wherein the sealed
10 polymeric bag has an ~~OP13/kg of at least 1500 ml/atm.24hrs. and an ethylene~~
~~permeability at 13°C per kg of bananas (EtP13/kg) (EtP13/kg)~~ which is at least 3 times
the OP13/kg.

35. (Currently amended) A package according to claim 21 wherein the
15 bananas have passed the peak of their climacteric.

36. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 21
33 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 18°C.

20 37. (Currently amended) A shipping or trucking container according to claim 21
33 wherein the packaging atmosphere is at a temperature less than 16°C.